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# Keep South Mtn. Freeway out of Ahwatukee

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Readers continue to speak out on the proposed South Mountain Freeway. What's your view? Share your thoughts by sending your comment to:  
[ahwatukee@arizonarepublic.com](mailto:ahwatukee@arizonarepublic.com).

The following are e-mails sent by readers of azcentral.com and *The Ahwatukee Republic*. They are published as submitted.

## **Pollution, lower home values, gangs will accompany freeway**

The area between the South Mountains and the proposed 202 Pecos would have high pollution, and the value of homes would go down. In the end Ahwatukee will become another Chandler, fighting off street gangs, etc.

I don't like it. The developers who built in the outlying areas made their profit. The people that bought homes there because they were/are cheaper now want the rest of us to compromise and pay for their cheapness, by building them a new road.

**Ruth Foster**

## **Taxes are wasted on freeway for wrong purpose, wrong place**

If public freeways are built for public use, then shouldn't they be built where the most people can travel the greatest distance in the least amount of time? This is not what will happen with the proposed Loop 202 and 55th Avenue alignment.

The Loop 202 South Mountain was put on paper when Ahwatukee was just a little village. Part of its purpose then was to serve as a truck bypass around the central core of Phoenix, not to serve the transportation needs of the relatively few residents here. Look what's happened since.

Our village has approached build-out at about 90,000 residents. South Mountain Park remains a park, human population: 0. The Gila River Community has added casinos, a resort and a tourist attraction (Rawhide), yet portions of their land that adjoin our village are sacred or agricultural. Although privately owned by a number of community members, the population of these lands is near 0.

Taking a broader look at the Phoenix metropolitan area, we see that the biggest housing booms are in the far west and the far southeast. Clearly there is a need for all these people to get around, but why route them through a city park and sacred ground, especially when those lands are nowhere near the new population hubs? Is it possible to build this leg of the freeway further south and further west to serve the transportation needs of the nearly 1 million expected residents in those areas?

Phoenix has grown up and out. Our existing government agencies, by limiting their focus to Maricopa County, are not serving the needs of the greater metropolitan area. The public servants at ADOT are paid to serve the public, not their plan. They are doing a disservice to the entire community, and billions of our dollars will be wasted on a freeway that's in the wrong place.

Slow down and look at the road ahead. It's time to take a "brake" from the old plan yet go full speed ahead with a new plan that will serve the needs of the most people, for the greatest distance, in the least amount of time.

**Ann French**

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